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# THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

## SOME NEW THINGS.

N. S. STOWELL.



THE selection of appropriate and seasonable holiday gifts is one of the most perplexing of the many problems which confront us as Christmas time approaches, and although in variety, style, beauty and adaptability the articles suited for such purposes have multiplied almost indefinitely, there seems to be no proportionate increase in the ease with which the selection is made.

There is such a diversity of taste in furnishing and the artistic perceptions of the well-to-do masses are becoming so keen that errors in color combinations are observed and criticised to an extent far beyond what would, a few years ago, have been deemed possible.

In the choice of decorative trifles for the drawing rooms or parlors it is well to bear one or two things in mind. Unless the colors can be accurately matched it is safe to select either silver, gold, white or a very delicate cream shade. These will harmonize with almost every color or fashion of furnishing, and as this class of goods may almost always be cleaned the delicacy of the tint may be secondary in this respect to the harmonious effect produced. Especially is this the case in lace tidies, scraps, covers and other articles in which ribbons are introduced. Of course the ribbons may be renewed, and must be after a time, when they may be selected to match the prevailing tints of the room, if desired. Just now ribbon is an important item either as an accessory or integral portion of made up lace goods of all sorts. Arabian lace which is distinguished by its heavy cord and fine cross threads is shown in tidies, scarfs, covers and borders. Tidies for the backs of easy chairs are in a great variety of shapes. New designs representing harps, bouquets, scrolls, an artist's oval palette, a wreath, an immense rosette, a leaf, and similar figures. These laces may be made up either with very narrow ribbons interlaced or woven through the meshes, or with a backing of vilour plush or silk and an edging of pleated lace, fringed out silk, or tiny fluffy tassels of silk floss. A handsome set has interwoven narrow gold and white ribbons, each ribbon end being finished with a tiny tassel in light olive. Another is backed with cardinal satin and has small tassels of gold cord and braid.

A novel fashion of finishing is to applique the lace tidy upon a square of plush and cut out the portion of plush covered by the lace. The cut edges are carefully secured and the outer edges of the plush are finished in any of the half score of pretty ways with which ingenious ladies are familiar, or the plush back may follow the outline of the lace design, and be edged with metal embroidery or any suitable trimming.

Similar finish and material is used for all varieties of lace tidies, including Irish point which is shown in new patterns, fine cluny, antique, and the rich and elegant Renaissance and Louis XIV patterns, which are the newest and most costly and beautiful of all decorative laces. Scarfs of lace for bureaus, stands, dressing cases, or tables, are wrought with silk, metal threads, and cotton or linen floss, and made up with silk, plush or velour backings. Piano scarfs are extraordinarily handsome and range in price from \$10 to several hundred dollars according to the material and the quantity and quality of the work. Some very complete lace sets include tidies for back and arms of chairs, piano, table, bureau and stand scarfs. They may all be finished in the same color or in the more contrasting or harmonious tints. Plush borders have elaborate decorations of metal or silk embroidery, and a little rich applique in novel designs and of very elegant materials. Ladies who make up their own decorative articles will find admirably selected ready made laces and borders, and for those who do not, there are made-up sets in almost endless variety, and a wide range of value.

For home work there are borders of various widths and qualities. With these and a lace center even the most inexperienced may achieve eminently satisfactory results. They are embroidered, printed and done in applique, the latter especially in such handsome designs and qualities that those who have not kept pace with the improvement on this line of goods might fancy it a new production. The printed novelties are very striking and suggestive to the gifted amateur who will readily discover their possibilities. They are printed in natural colored leaves and flowers, and a few threads of heavy filling silk, or even ordinary embroidery silk will outline the pattern, accent the shadows and clear the high lights remarkably. A creation of great beauty is a piano scarf of fine cloth with printed plush border. The outlines of the printed figures are etched in floss silks, of appropriate colors, the veinings of the leaves, and the blossoms are put in with great care for effect and correctness. The under color so far assists the work that the piece has at a little distance almost the appearance of Gobelin tapestry.

While not expensive these printed borders are among the

most valuable of recent additions to the resources of those who are fond of making beautiful things, and who desire really good materials to work with. They are grounds of velour as well as plush the former material being far more serviceable than the latter, and equally handsome while it is less expensive. Almost any lady would appreciate a set of tidies, a scarf of any size, a front for a bracket, a chair, seat or, piano stool cover, or any one of the thousand minor articles that can be made by ingenious and interested fingers. There are center pieces for stand and table covers, sofa cushions, and pillows, and delicious little squares in dainty tints of floss silk on grounds of heavy satin. These make admirable book covers, tops for ottomans, pin cushions and foot cushions, and work with excellent effect into upholstery, which is now one of the standard accomplishments of the well finished young woman.

Draperies, whether for windows, doors, or other purposes are among the most acceptable and elegant of presents, and in supply and style are quite as exhaustless and comprehensive as the most ardent admirer of beautiful things could desire. Portieres of velour, either in rich metal or applique embroidery are shown, also double-faced velour printed in Turkish rug patterns, the soft tints exquisitely blended, the lustre of the fabric adding to the effect. A very rich design in empire pattern is wrought in gold, another in silver, gold and iridescent metal.

Curtains of silk chenille are pretty and not expensive considering the quality. A set of window draperies in lace would delight the heart of a young housekeeper and many an old, for that matter. There are charming novelties in lace curtains. Fine rather heavy net has palm leaves with stalks and flowers in bands like point lace braid. This design is copied from a set of the most elegant lace curtains ever brought to this market. The new curtains are very low in price, ranging upward from eight dollars per window, and are at a little distance really as effective as fine hand made goods.

The new Cassaban draperies have attracted deserved attention and are handsome, durable and moderate in price. They are a combination of cut art work and tambour, and are very desirable.

Antique and Louis XIV designs are used in combination, and with excellent results. In more expensive styles, these are high novelties. Among these are draperies of fine net, with edge of Russian lace, and bands of satin ribbon in two widths set lengthwise of the goods at regular intervals. Russian lace with scrim, and renaissance with Louis XIV and fine scrim, are beautiful. There are tapestry panels and centre pieces for curtains, also squares, three of them making an admirable dado for a curtain or portiere.

Experts in embroidery will find the new velour a most admirable fabric.

India goods are shown in great variety—there are bands, borders, edgings, portieres, materials for scarfs, cushion covers, tea covers, and piano covers. Draperies of heavy satin are almost entirely covered with fine hand-wrought embroidery in white or dark grounds, and also in flowers in natural colors. These embroideries are very useful to cut up for handsome decorations of all sorts. There are also bits of decorative stuffs from the semi-annual sales of India goods. These are treasures, not only to the professional but the amateur who can never hope save by years of labor, to produce such results as can be obtained at the expense of a few dollars judiciously invested in old India embroideries.

For information, thanks are due to James McCreery & Co.

INTERIOR decoration in the present day is more complete in the sense of being carried more thoroughly out so as to avoid mere exceptional and partial effects than in any former period as regards general furnishing, a result largely due to inventiveness in the economizing of materials that simulate the costlier products formerly in use and which are more easily manipulated as for instance, papier mache and carton pierre, which give the effects of sculptured and carved work, and such plaster materials as lincrusta, which can be made to take the place of embossed leather and other relief work. We have also greater variety of designs than of old, owing to the ease with which required effects are produced, former decorators moving mostly within severely restricted lines, following set styles. Wall paper manufacturers and cabinet makers have been leading spirits in the diffusion of taste. The former bring an endless array of charming devices into the field of mural coloring, and the latter have largely contributed to eclectic taste in combining harmoniously the features of separate styles, or treating old styles in an original fashion.

A COMBINATION has been formed among the largest and most prominent makers of rattan furniture with the "view of meeting competition by home workers and German concerns."